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November 13, 2003

U.S. Department of State
CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

As the Executive Director of an agency that has been responsibly involved with international adoptions from many countries for more than 25 years, I strongly suggest that the comment period be extended for at least another 6 months. Many organizations are unaware of the proposed rules for implementation of the Hague Convention. I urge you to send regular mail and electronic mail to each of them requesting their input on the proposed rules.

It is a huge concern that international adoptions not exploit children for anyone's profit. However, the proposed rules will greatly increase an organization's cost, and thus the adoptive family's cost, for each adoption, without increasing safety for children. In fact it is likely that fewer children will find nurturing, loving families because careful, professional, responsible agencies will not be able to afford the costs associated with many of the proposed regulations.

Again, I request a greatly extended comment period and notification of all existing agencies helping with international adoptions.

Very truly yours,

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